



**Meeting Time & Place:** Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, 8:30 a.m., Big Sky Bistro, Polson.

**In Attendance:** Whitney Cantlon from Country Pasta; Debbie Krantz and Todd Erickson from Lake County Job Service; Jessie Miller from First Citizens Bank; Marilyn Becker from Office of Public Assistance; Theresa Jones from St. Luke Community Healthcare; Gib Turner from Lake County Community Development; Ryan Ostrander – Scholarship Recipient; Judie Grant – Ryan’s Grandmother; and Judi Gibbs – Counselor from Two Eagle River School.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jessie reported that we have a balance of \$6,014.75.

**Old Business:**

**Review/Approve Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**Scholarship Winner Presentation:** Ryan Ostrander is this year’s recipient of the Ken Rohrenbach Scholarship. He will be attending Montana Tech in Butte to attain a degree in petroleum engineering. After that he plans to move to the oil fields to obtain work. Whitney presented the award to Ryan, including a Certificate of Award and the check. Marilyn asked him if he had obtained other scholarships. He has applied, but has not heard yet from most of those applications. Ryan had received the Most Improved Math Student Award in 2011, and his school counselor stated that he was a very motivated student who is determined to finish well. Best wishes on your future, Ryan!

**MSEC/JSEC Coordinators Meeting:** Todd reported on the MSEC meeting in Missoula. Blakely provided notes of the information that she gathered there as well. Previously the MSEC provided an Innovation in Business Clinic. Due to the high cost it was not offered this year, but is being re-evaluated for the future. The SHRM conference is also offered about the same time of year, so coordination regarding this can make a difference in who may be able to attend. Some good ideas came out of the meeting. In the Business Recognition subcommittee, they discussed more awards for businesses for recognition of leadership in their communities. It was suggested that local JSEC offices could provide more recognition for those businesses in their communities, including those creating a positive impact, employers of choice, innovation, achievement, or other factors. The application process would include a formal letter of nomination. We discussed providing these awards at a local level, and then submitting those nominations to the MSEC level for consideration.

The individual who won the Fred Umack scholarship was Todd Pate from Great Falls.

They are still looking for a Regional MSEC Representative from our area. An individual serving in this capacity would travel to MSEC meetings, and also to regional JSEC meetings to gather information and provide good feedback to the MSEC committee. There is considerable commitment required for this position. This could be a very good fit for a retired person, as those who are still working often do not have the time to commit to this endeavor.

Mike Cooney, Administrator for the Workforce Services Division of Montana Department of Labor, discussed current Job Service efforts, the State Workforce Investment Board work, and Incumbent Worker Training. He recognized the JSEC committees for their good work.

Local office ideas were shared and good networking occurred there as well. Todd discussed our partnership with the Chamber and Brown Bag events, our coordination with SHRM, and our seminars. A virtual “warehouse” of speakers was discussed, so that JSEC committees would have ready access to resources that other JSEC groups have recommended. Using Facebook or LinkedIn might be good options for outreach in our communities as well.

**Big Sky Bistro Workshop Scholarship:** Todd suggested that we provide a scholarship to the Nan Russell seminar to the Bistro. Kim Fowler has just purchased the Bistro, and this might be a good way to encourage and support a new business owner, as well as a thank you for allowing us to meet in their facility on a regular basis. Teresa moved and Whitney seconded that we do this. The motion was approved.

At this time, we have about 57-59 registrations for the Nan Russell seminar. Right now the profit margin estimate is about \$1200. We discussed the deadline for registration, and the feeling in the group was that we would try to accommodate additional registrations as we are able, to ensure that as many as possible could attend.

**Social Media:** Social media pros and cons were discussed. The use of social media is expected for business now, and how to keep information safe and still utilize those resources is a big concern. The group determined that a seminar on this issue could be a very important and well received session. This was tagged as a good “next topic” for our seminar.

**Resources Update:** Todd discussed the Resource Update. We are urging people to share those resources more in the community, and to share information that these are available. Ken Avison is open to using those in the Polson Downtown Business Association, so Todd is hoping to show them to that group. He is also looking to share more in the Ronan area. The Pickle is still in demand, and has been utilized for staff training in local businesses lately.

#### **New Business:**

**Nan Russell Workshop Update:** Nan Russell seminar update—almost 60 people are registered. Todd will contact the Kwatuqnuq this morning and provide them an update. It doesn’t appear that we will have a need for SHRM financial assistance at this time, so Todd will let Debbie Vassar know and discuss that with her. They may want to hold their contribution and use it for another venue in the future. Whitney and Marilyn volunteered to help with registration on the day of the seminar. Details were discussed.

**Steve McCoy with SKC:** Steve McCoy was unable to attend today. He is hoping to talk to us about their efforts in Adult Education, and possibly enlist local businesses to help as individuals prepare applications and interview. We will touch base with him as he is available. Steve is still offering training, and we hear that it is excellent. We used his services for training before and he may be another good resource for the future.

**Steve Beck Workshop:** Steve Beck is coming back to the Kwatuqnuq. Todd asked if we can partner with them, so he will be working on that. He will get more details for us.

**Manager's Report:** A required program for specific unemployment recipients is now in full swing at the Job Service. It is called "REA", which stands for Re-employment Eligibility Assessment. Individuals who are on long-term unemployment compensation are scheduled to come to the Job Service for assistance with Job Search and verifications. It is a mandatory program. We also have a new hire in T Falls and a job opening in Polson.

Marilyn has a position open as well for a Social Service Specialist.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 8:30 a.m. at the Big Sky Bistro.